AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (original): A tank having:

a filter which divides the tank into upper and lower portions;

a fluid inlet in the lower portion for admitting into the tank a fluid with entrained solids; and

a fluid outlet in the upper portion through which filtered fluid can leave the tank,

characterized in that the filter comprises:

filter media supported on a permeable wall, the wall including a filter media outlet which is normally closed; and

opening means for opening the filter media outlet to allow the filter media to discharge into the lower portion of the tank.

2. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which the wall of the filter is substantially conical, tapering downwardly to the filter media outlet.

3. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the opening means for opening the filter media outlet comprises a valve in the said filter media outlet.

4. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which means is provided for operating the opening means remotely.

5. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which a baffle is provided adjacent the fluid inlet to direct the flow of fluid and entrained solids away from the filter.

6. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 5, in which the baffle is annular and induces a cyclonic flow in the fluid and entrained solids entering the tank.

7. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the permeability of the wall is provided by perforations in the wall.

8. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 7, in which the wall comprises a mesh sheet.

9. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the wall is formed from a plurality of individual screens.

10. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which a filter media inlet is provided in the tank above the filter.

11. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which a second filter media outlet is provided in the tank below the filter.

12. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which a fluidising unit is provided in the lower portion of the tank.

13. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 12, in which the fluidising unit discharges fluidised solids from the tank through a solids discharge duct.

14. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in claim 12 ~~or 13~~, in which the filter media discharged from the filter into the lower portion of the tank is removed from the tank by the fluidising unit.

15. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~ claim 12, in which the fluidising unit is fed with fluid from a second tank.

16. (currently amended): A tank as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which back flushing means are provided for back flushing the filter media.

17. (original): A method as claimed in claim 16, in which the back flushing means comprises a flow distribution device which distributes a flushing fluid over an upper surface of the filter media.

18. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 16 ~~or 17~~, in which the back flushing means is fed with fluid from the second tank.

19. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 18, in which the flushing fluid is water.

20. (original): A method of refilling a filter in a tank with filter media, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) discharging the used filter media into a lower portion of the tank;

(b) fluidising the used filter media and transporting it out of the tank using a fluidising unit; and

(c) refilling the filter with filter media.

21. (original): A method as claimed in claim 20, in which between steps (a) and (b) there is a further step of back flushing the filter to wash out the used filter media.

22. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 20 ~~or 21~~, in which between the steps (b) and (c) there is a further step of cleansing the filter media in a cleanser, such as a cyclone, and in the step (c), the filter is refilled with the cleansed filter media.

23-24. (canceled)

25. (new): A tank having:

a filter which divides the tank into upper and lower portions;

a fluid inlet in the lower portion for admitting into the tank a fluid with entrained solids; and

a fluid outlet in the upper portion through which filtered fluid can leave the tank,

characterized in that the filter comprises:

filter media supported on a permeable wall, the wall including a filter media outlet which is normally closed, where the wall is substantially conical, tapering downwardly to the filter media outlet, and where the wall comprises a feature selected from the group consisting of perforations in the wall, a mesh sheet, a plurality of individual screens and combinations thereof; and

opening means for opening the filter media outlet to allow the filter media to discharge into the lower portion of the tank.